

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 20, 2005, for a committee hearing titled "IT Management by the VA: Is it Ready for the 21st Century?"

The hearing will take place in room 418 of the Russell Senate Office Building at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 20, 2005 at 2:30 p.m. to hold a closed briefing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NEAR EASTERN AND SOUTH ASIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs be authorized to meeting during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 20, 2005, at 2:30 p.m. to hold a hearing on U.S. Foreign Policy, Petroleum, and the Middle East.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION, CIVIL RIGHTS AND PROPERTY RIGHTS

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Property Rights be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on "An Examination of the Constitutional Amendment on Marriage" on Thursday, October 20, 2005 at 2 p.m. in SD226.

Witness List:

Panel I: Scott FitzGibbon, Professor of Law, Boston College, Boston, MA; Christopher E. Harris, M.D., Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Nashville, TN; Louis Michael Seidman, John Carroll Research Professor of Law, Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC; Richard Wilkins, Professor of Law, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT; Christopher Wolfe, Professor of Political Science, Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES—S. 3058

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair appoints Mr. BOND, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. BENNETT, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. BURNS, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BYRD, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. REID of Nevada, Mr. KOHL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. LEAHY,

Mr. HARKIN, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. INOUE.

Mr. FRIST. For the purposes of the Transportation, Treasury appropriations, I ask consent that the following Members be considered as conferees for Division A of the bill: Mr. BOND, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. BENNETT, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. BURNS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BYRD, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. REID, Mr. KOHL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. INOUE.

I further ask consent that the following members be considered as conferees for Division B of the bill: Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. INOUE.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 1904, H.R. 554

Mr. FRIST. I understand there are two bills at the desk and I ask for their first reading, en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1904) to provide elementary and secondary education assistance to students in schools impacted by Hurricane Katrina.

A bill (H.R. 554) to prevent legislative and regulatory functions from being usurped by civil liability actions brought or continued against food manufacturers, marketers, distributors, advertisers, sellers, and trade associations for claims of injury relating to a person's weight gain, obesity, or any health condition associated with weight gain or obesity.

Mr. FRIST. I now ask for a second reading in order to place the bills on the calendar, and under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bills will be read a second time on the next legislative day.

RELIEF FOR DISPLACED STUDENTS

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I join my colleagues in the introduction of a bill to continue our efforts to provide relief for the school children whose lives have been uprooted by Hurricane Katrina and for the all of the schools that were affected by the storm—those along the gulf coast and those who have generously taken in displaced students across the country.

I would first like to thank my colleagues, Senator ALEXANDER, Senator KENNEDY, and Senator DODD, who have joined me today to explain our intent in crafting this legislation.

I am pleased that we were able to work together to develop and introduce this bipartisan compromise. The bill provides relief for displaced students in a time of crisis, without opening political or ideological battles.

Mr. KENNEDY. Will the distinguished Senator yield?

Mr. ENZI. Of course.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I commend our Chairman, Senator ENZI, for his leadership throughout this process. The hearings and meetings he convened to enable us to hear directly from the persons most affected by the devastation of Hurricane Katrina have been invaluable to the development of this bipartisan legislation.

I also commend Senator ALEXANDER and Senator DODD for their leadership in working with us to draft this one-time, temporary impact aid for displaced students attending public and nonpublic schools. We all agree that all displaced students deserve help in continuing their education, and we all agree on the extraordinary circumstances and unprecedented scope of this disaster.

The aid provided by this bill flows through the public school system to ensure greater accountability for the money. It enables these schools to make payments to accounts set up for displaced students in nonpublic schools, as well, which can then use those funds to provide services to the displaced students enrolled in their schools.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. KENNEDY. Certainly.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I would also like to thank my colleagues for working together to craft this temporary emergency program to provide one-time assistance to all displaced school children in public and nonpublic schools. I am also pleased that we were able to develop this legislation in a way that provides financial assistance for all displaced school children without getting into ideological battles.

Mr. DODD. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. ALEXANDER. Of course.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I cannot underscore enough what my colleagues have already stated—that this is a one-time, emergency aid program. All of the authors of the bill have agreed that next school year, in terms of assistance to nonpublic schools, we will go back to the way things are done today. We are reaching out to all of the students affected by Katrina here, no matter what type of school they attend, because it makes sense under these extraordinary conditions, because it gets kids back on their feet as quickly as possible. In no way is this bill meant to undermine or amend current law or set any type of precedent for future legislation.

Mr. ENZI. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. DODD. Of course.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I would just like to echo the sentiments of the senior Senator from Connecticut. We have all agreed and have explicitly stated in the bill, that the level and type of assistance we are providing to both public and nonpublic schools is being authorized solely because of the unprecedented nature of the crisis, the massive dislocation of students, and the short duration of the assistance.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Will the Senator yield?